



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
 4700 Ramona Boulevard
 Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



December 10, 2013

Received & Inspected

DEC 19 2013

FCC Mail Room

Secretary Marlene H. Dortch
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
 Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Secretary *Marlene* Dortch:

RATES FOR INTERSTATE INMATE CALLING SERVICES
WC DOCKET No. 12-375

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, I am writing to express our concern and disappointment concerning the Order and Further Notice of the Proposed Rule Making released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which becomes effective on February 11, 2014. This order seriously hampers our ability to effectively secure and manage jails and fails to consider what is required in a correctional facility to provide telephone use to inmates. Our comments below encompass both the current FCC Order regarding interstate calls as well as its solicitation for comments regarding intrastate calls.

There has been much attention to the fact that inmates and their families are often required to pay more than prevailing market rates for phone calls in order to stay in touch. That criticism is heightened when the rates involve commissions paid back to the jails or prisons housing the inmates. However, we believe the Commission has failed to appreciate the complex and specialized environment in which inmate calling services are offered. Jail facilities of all sizes must carefully balance the needs of inmates against the need to protect the public, jail staff and the inmate population. Inmate phone systems cannot be compared with standard common carrier services. They include security components that have consistently been able to detect criminal activity occurring inside correctional facilities. Individual calls are carefully managed and controlled, and the service integrates specific technological measures required by jails to ensure facility security and public safety.

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A Tradition of Service

With respect to criticism of revenue derived from inmate phone services, we direct you to California Penal Code Section 4025, which requires each county to establish an "Inmate Welfare Fund" and requires that "any money, refund, rebate, or commission... attributable to the use of pay telephones... by inmates" be deposited into the fund. The funds generated from these phone calls are deposited into the Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF), and must be used for the welfare and benefit of the inmates.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and other California Sheriffs utilize these funds for a variety of programs and services, including but not limited to, educational and vocational programs, law libraries, recreation supplies and other services that benefit inmates such as transportation for inmates being released from custody. Most recently, I sponsored legislation in California where Penal Code Section 4025 was modified to include the ability to utilize Inmate Welfare Funds for re-entry services up to 30 days post-release from custody. The ability to maintain these services to reduce recidivism and enhance safety both in the jails, and in the communities, is critical.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me directly at (323) 526-5000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leroy" and last name "Baca" clearly distinguishable.

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF